

Washington, D.C. - Yesterday, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) voted against the passage of the House Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act of 2012, the implementing of the Republican budget. Congressman Gonzalez voted against the measure and issued the following statement regarding its passage:

"Today, House Republicans reaffirmed their commitment to an out-of-touch budget that ends the Medicare guarantee while continuing an unfair tax system that only benefits a few taxpayers. Under this Republican proposal, the burden of deficit reduction would be shouldered by seniors, middle class families, public schools and children. The reconciliation bill passed by House Republicans:

- Slashes food assistance by \$35.8 billion – reducing food stamps to all recipients and cutting access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to nearly two million people at a time when families can least afford it.
- Permanently eliminates the Social Services Block Grant program, which provides assistance for roughly 23 million Americans, including:
 - Child care and related assistance for 4.4 million children,
 - "Meals on Wheels" and other home-based services for nearly 1.7 million older Americans,
 - Child protective services for 1.8 million at-risk children,
 - Transportation, respite care and other services for nearly 1 million disabled individuals.

"In the midst of our fragile economic recovery, we should be focusing on creating jobs. That's the best way to reduce the deficit and the need for spending on the programs millions of Americans depend on for their health and economic security. Our country cannot afford to ignore the problem of deficit reduction, but the path we pave forward to address our nation's debt must require shared responsibility," said Congressman Gonzalez. "The American people deserve a budget that reflects the values of our country, one where everyone gets a fair shot, does their fair share, and plays by the same rules, not one that rewards special interests and jeopardizes health care for millions of seniors."

[Several groups](#) including the American Heart Association, Catholic Charities USA, AARP, and NCLR have all opposed the Republican reconciliation act for its damaging effect to America's most vulnerable populations.

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